

Title VI Annual Report

August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024

September 3, 2024

271 W 3rd St., Suite 208, Wichita, KS 67202 <u>wampo@wampo.org</u> 316.779.1313



The preparation of this report has been financed in part through funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, under the Metropolitan Planning Program, Section 104(f) of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Table of Contents

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization4
Commitment to Nondiscrimination4
2022 Update5
Public Participation Plan5
2023 Update5
2024 Update5
WAMPO 2023 to 2024 Public Events5
Interactions6
Language Accessibility6
Ongoing Improvement for WAMPO6
Title VI Program Requirement6
WAMPO Website
Title VI Webpage7
Public Participation Webpage7
WAMPO Title VI Complaints
Appendix A: Title VI Program7
Appendix B: LEP Plan

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Wichita metropolitan area. As the MPO, WAMPO works to recognize the critical links between transportation and other societal goals, such as economic health, air quality, social equity, environmental resource consumption, and overall quality of life.

The 24-member Transportation Policy Body (TPB) guides and coordinates the transportation investments of the WAMPO area. In addition to the TPB, elected officials, transportation professionals, advocates, and citizens have an opportunity to share their expertise by serving on the following TPB advisory committees and working groups:

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Executive Committee (EC)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 Plan Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Project Selection Committee (PSC)
- ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition
- ICT Safe subcommittees: Active Transportation Committee (ATC) and Drive Safe Sedgwick

Commitment to Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice (EJ), Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities, regardless of funding source.

WAMPO strives to create and maintain a transparent and inclusive planning process by intentionally integrating Title VI, EJ, and LEP principles into the WAMPO transportation planning process and by reaching out to traditionally underserved populations in the WAMPO region.

2022 Update

Public Participation Plan

WAMPO completed its current Public Participation Plan (PPP) in December of 2022. The PPP outlines strategies for involving the public in transportation planning. Its goal is to ensure effective engagement throughout the 3-C (Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive) process. The plan emphasizes that public participation is vital for developing transportation policies, programs, and projects. WAMPO aims to collaboratively gather input from affected parties, focusing on diverse transportation needs, concerns, and ideas.

WAMPO's commitment to meaningful engagement forms the plan's foundation. It recognizes that public input is crucial for quality transportation planning and project development. The plan aims to make it easier for interested individuals to contribute by offering multiple avenues for involvement, from committee participation to open house discussions.

The plan also highlights Title VI requirements, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs receiving federal funding. WAMPO ensures compliance with these regulations and offers avenues for individuals to report discrimination. Lastly, the plan underscores accessibility by providing transportation information electronically and in hard copy, ensuring that the community has access to critical documents through libraries and City Hall offices.

2023 Update

There were no Title VI updates in 2023.

2024 Update

There were no Title VI updates in 2024.

WAMPO 2023 to 2024 Public Events

Meetings hosted by WAMPO are open to the public and announced through the WAMPO website, social media, paid newspaper notices, and email distributions. WAMPO meetings include those of the Transportation Policy Body (TPB), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition, and more. WAMPO staff also had interactions for various planning processes during this reporting period.

Interactions

Between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024, WAMPO conducted public engagement for the Electric Vehicle Network Plan and the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, and conducted two rounds of public engagement for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050. Surveys were used as an engagement tool to aid staff in collecting public input. Outreach was conducted through social media, newsletters, and stakeholder communication and presentations, as well as through tabling at community events and hosting public meetings. All surveys and supplemental WAMPO outreach materials were made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Language Accessibility

During public engagement periods for the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050), and the Electric Vehicle Network Plan, WAMPO staff took care to engage members of the community with limited English proficiency. Paper and digital surveys and handouts were made available in Spanish and Vietnamese. Social media posts were published in both English and Spanish, when possible. The Executive Summaries from WAMPO planning documents approved between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024, have been translated and made available on the website in Spanish and Vietnamese. Documents whose executive summaries have been translated during this time period include the Congestion Management Process (CMP), Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP), Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Ongoing Improvement for WAMPO

WAMPO has an ongoing commitment to evaluate proactive and responsive strategies to engage traditionally underrepresented populations, including minorities and individuals with limited English proficiency, in the transportation planning process. The WAMPO Title VI Program Manual and WAMPO Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan will be updated in 2025.

Title VI Program Requirement

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that all direct and primary recipients document their compliance with the Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations. WAMPO demonstrates Title VI compliance through the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Updates to WAMPO's Title VI Program Manual and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan occur every three years and were last updated on July 12, 2022.

WAMPO Website

Title VI Webpage

WAMPO has a Title VI webpage, which serves as a one-stop shop for the public to locate Title VI-related information. WAMPO has also incorporated the KDOT Title VI brochure in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to better serve the identified populations. Also located on the page is WAMPO's Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Please visit www.wampo.org/title-vi to view WAMPO's webpage dedicated to Title VI.

Public Participation Webpage

The Public Participation page links to the WAMPO Public Participation Plan. Public comment opportunities and upcoming meetings and events are also on this page.

Please visit <u>www.wampo.org/public-participation</u> to view WAMPO's webpage dedicated to public participation.

WAMPO Title VI Complaints

As of July 31, 2024, there have been zero reported complaints against WAMPO's Title VI efforts.

Appendix A: Title VI Program

View the WAMPO Title VI Program Manual at: https://www.wampo.org/_files/ugd/bbf89d_3835661e77394b878a116117ca5835af.pdf

Appendix B: LEP Plan

View the WAMPO Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan at: <u>https://www.wampo.org/_files/ugd/bbf89d_54dc9c8156a84d42a4065366c9f12142.pdf</u>